

the Year" award from Chelsea's school system.

Mr. Speaker, there are far too many teachers to mention everyone by name, however I'd like to take a moment to thank all the teachers in Belmont, Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Watertown for tirelessly giving of themselves to educate our future leaders.

Tomorrow, I will visit the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. school and the King Open school in Cambridge, and then I will attend a ground breaking at the Boston Latin school. Since becoming a Member, I have visited schools all over my district. However I am always amazed at the warm greeting I receive from students, and from teachers. For them, it does not matter who the visitor is, but rather that someone cares and recognizes the hard work they do.

Mr. Speaker, while we discuss education priorities this year, I hope each Member of Congress will reflect upon the valuable commodity each and every teacher in his or her district represents, and work to include rewards for teachers as a part of the education agenda. I know I will.

#### A COURAGEOUS DRUG FIGHTER AND HIS MEN

#### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's Miami Herald recounts the battle by the Colombia National Police (CNP) in a real war on drugs in that troubled nation. In attacking a major cocaine complex in Colombia, the anti-drug police (DANTI) under the leadership of General Jose Serrano and Colonel Leonardo Gallego took hostile fire, yet they managed to destroy a complex capable of producing tons and tons of deadly drugs, and seized a ton of cocaine and large quantities of precursor chemicals. The lab complex was capable of producing 8 tons of cocaine per month.

The DANTI used aged Huey helicopters without the proper Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) equipment that could have foretold the trouble that they would face on the ground from the right wing paramilitary run cocaine complex. Despite the lack of adequate helicopters and what the police really need in defensive equipment, they still prevailed. We are indeed fortunate to have allies like this in our common battle against illicit drugs in our hemisphere.

Just last Friday, along with my colleagues in the House, Representatives BURTON, MICA and DELAUNO and Senator DODD, I traveled to the Sikorsky plant in Connecticut to attend the ceremony giving General Serrano what he and his anti-drug police need to fight a real war on drugs. The log book for six of the world renowned and effective Sikorsky Blackhawk utility helicopters were turned over to General Serrano and Colonel Gallego, the head of DANTI. These Blackhawk choppers will give these brave, courageous men what they need and should have had years ago.

One can only wonder what results we might have seen from the CNP if we had provided these Blackhawks sooner rather than later. I ask that the Miami Herald account of yesterday's operations in Colombia be inserted at this point in the RECORD, and I ask my col-

leagues to note what good and courageous men do in a real war on drugs.

[From the Miami Herald, May 5, 1999]

#### COLOMBIAN POLICE FIGHT OFF GUNFIRE TO DESTROY COKE LABS

(By Tim Johnson)

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—Fighting off gunfire from paramilitary forces, an anti-narcotics strike force on Wednesday raided what police described as one of the most sophisticated cocaine-processing complexes in Colombia's history.

Police said they destroyed three cocaine-processing laboratories capable of producing eight tons of cocaine a month.

"This is impressive. in my professional life, I have seen a lot of laboratories. But this is beyond imagination," said National Police Chief Rosso Jose Serrano, soaked in sweat after leading 300 officers on the jungle raid.

Serrano said the laboratories, discovered in a wooded area in the Magdalena River Valley near the town of Puerto Boyaca, were protected by rightist paramilitary forces.

Paramilitary forces have long been rumored to be involved in Colombia's huge drug trade, but their direct link to such a major processing site provides starting evidence of how deeply they are enmeshed.

The discovery further complicates Colombia's dismal security situation and underscores the difficulties of fighting the cocaine trade. The 15,000-member Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—bitter enemies of the paramilitary forces—also derive hundreds of millions of dollars a year from protecting coca crops and laboratories, mostly in the eastern plains.

Backed by 10 artillery-equipped helicopters, 300 members of an anti-narcotics force swooped down on the complex around dawn, police said.

"In the precise moment we arrived, they were in the middle of processing cocaine. We couldn't tell how many people were there, but there was an exchange of gunfire," police Col. Ramon Pelaez said.

Workers fled the scene as helicopters landed a little less than a mile from the laboratories, Serrano said. No arrests were made.

The laboratories, some up to four stories high, were covered by thick forest, Serrano said. Sleeping facilities indicated at least 200 people were employed at the site.

Serrano said the stench of ether—used to process the drug—hung over the complex.

Police said they found 150 tons of chemicals, a ton of pure cocaine, generators capable of providing power to a town of 5,000 people, gas ovens to process the cocaine and documents that provided valuable clues.

"We made an estimate that the structure is worth \$5 million," Serrano said. "It impressed me because I've seen a lot. But these were very well camouflaged. You passed over in a helicopter and you couldn't see them."

Serrano said the site included a sophisticated quality-control facility.

He said the laboratories, each one protected by control towers, were spread over more than seven square miles.

Serrano said he believed the laboratories were run by paramilitaries with remnants of the dismantled Cali and Medellin cartels, which at their height were the largest criminal organizations in the world. Colombia produces about 80 percent of the world's cocaine.

The site appeared to rival two other huge complexes destroyed by police in the past.

In March 1984, authorities were stunned by a massive jungle complex known as Tranquilandia, with a network of 19 laboratories. Police found 13.8 tons of cocaine at the facility, worth more than \$1 billion in

street sales. They later calculated that the complex could produce 300 tons of refined cocaine a year.

In early 1997, authorities found more than eight tons of cocaine at a processing facility in eastern Meta state that became known as Villa Coca.

That complex was also virtually an entire village, with 22 crude buildings, an all-weather airstrip, a control tower and 455 tons of chemicals used in refining cocaine.

In other news, the head of the National anti-Narcotics Office, Ruben Olarte Reyes, was forced from office by President Andres Pastrana amid charges that his brother had laundered money for drug traffickers.

An angry Olarte contended that he was being railroaded out of office and that his brother had rented a house without knowing that its owner was sought by authorities as a suspected drug dealer.

#### BOSTON'S TEACHING HOSPITALS

#### HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article from today's New York Times which details the financial difficulties facing Boston's teaching hospitals. Many of the Boston teaching hospitals, which are located in my district, are experiencing serious Medicare cuts as a result of the Balanced Budget Act as well as from continuous cuts from managed care payments. These cuts threaten the important mission that our teaching hospitals provide—training physicians, caring for the sickest patients and providing care for the indigent.

I would ask my colleagues to read this important article and to take these points in mind as we debate the future of the Medicare program.

[From the New York Times, May 6, 1999]

#### TEACHING HOSPITALS SAY MEDICARE CUTS HAVE THEM BLEEDING RED INK

(By Carey Goldberg)

BOSTON—Normally, the great teaching hospitals of this medical Mecca carry an air of white-coated, best-in-the-world arrogance, the kind that comes of collecting Nobels, of snaring more federal money for medical research than hospitals anywhere else, of attracting patients from the four corners of the earth.

But not lately. Lately, their chief executives carry an air of pleading and alarm. They tend to cross the edges of their palms in an X—with one line symbolizing rising costs and the other dropping payments, especially Medicare payments—and say they simply cannot go on losing money this way and remain the academic cream of American medicine.

Dr. Mitchell T. Rabkin, chief executive emeritus of Beth Israel Hospital: "Every-one's in deep yogurt."

Jeffrey Otten, president of Brigham and Women's Hospital: "Most of the hospitals are losing money at a rate between a half-million and a million dollars a week," though their beds are mostly full.

Dr. Samuel O. Thier, president of the group which owns Massachusetts General Hospital: "We've got a problem, and you've got to nip it in the bud, or else you're going to kill off some of the premier institutions in the country."

The teaching hospitals here and elsewhere have never been fully immune from the turbulent change sweeping American health